

REMARKS

Further to the Request For Continued Prosecution filed September 17, 2007, please consider the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to address the objection noted by the Examiner. Since Claim 1 has otherwise been indicated as presenting allowable subject matter, Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Eichberger (US 5,815,934). According to the Examiner, "Eichberger teaches a conduit (28) in communication with an air channel (30) so as to entrain and remove debris generated by the cutting drum (15) in the recess (18). The conduit (28) is directly connected to the recess (18)." Reference numeral (28) in Eichberger does not refer to a "conduit" but rather to the opening to the recess (18), which corresponds to the "expulsion aperture" (52) in the present invention. Applicant presumes the Examiner intended to refer instead to the transverse receiving chamber (25) in Eichberger that communicates with the air channel (30) and is connected to recess (18) via opening (28).

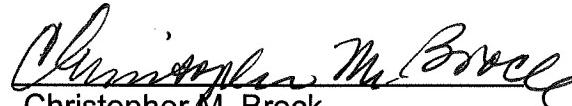
In the present invention, however, the airflow from the conduit is introduced into the exhaust passage at a location at or below the expulsion aperture 52 through which debris is expelled from the recess 50, so that the debris is entrained and directed upwardly in the exhaust passage. Preferably, the airflow from the conduit is blown across the expulsion aperture 52 in the recess 50 at an acute angle to facilitate the efficient flow of debris through the exhaust passage.

To the contrary, in Eichberger the direction of debris flow out from recess 18 through aperture 28 is virtually opposite the direction of airflow emanating from the conduit 30 through port 29 into chamber 25. In addition, because the airflow from the conduit 42 in the present invention is injected into the exhaust passage at a position at or below the expulsion aperture 52, the movement of debris ejected from the recess 50 by the cutting action is enhanced. Consequently, the expulsion of debris from the body of the tool in Eichberger is not as efficient as the construction taught by the present invention.

New Claims 15-20 have been drafted to better define the above-noted distinctions. Accordingly, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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